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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,574	09/18/2001	Timothy C. Shaw	24012-58	8106

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EXAMINER	
WORKU, NEGUSSIE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/955,574	SHAW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Negussie Worku	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 September 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 September 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Nwk
3/12/05

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *01/10/02*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thering et al. (USPAP US2002/0051215).

With respect to claim 1, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprising: a first bridge member (a lower film guide 327 of fig 9 and 10, includes an arcuate film scanning bridge 325, which is the first bridge member, with a center scanning 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied to the moving film along the transporting bridge 325) having a film facing surface (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied) to support photographic film (film 220 of fig 11) moving relative to the bridge, see (col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-3, and same paragraph lines 1-10); a second bridge member (bridge member 323 of fig 12) having a film facing surface to support photographic film (22o of fig 11) moving

relative to the bridge, (bridge member 323 of fig 12, shows the second bridge arcuate member 323, over which the film 220 is driven, see (col.8, paragraph 0097, of the last 3 lines) wherein the bridge members are spaced so as to define an opening between the bridge members for passing radiation through film traveling over the film facing surfaces (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied, to film 220 of fig 11, see col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-7); and a material applied to the film facing surface of at least one of said bridge members, (tension of film over an arcuate surface reduce the risk that the film will rise off that surface, so that at least a scanning bridge 325 is an arcuate or curved member, [low friction and scratch resistant], see col.8, paragraph 0096-0097).

With respect to claim 2, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) wherein the material has a length which is less than the width of the film between transversely spaced sprocket holes, "*(film transporting and developing system can be used to scan a variety of film types, and a separate hardware systems and components need not be manufactured for separate film types, so it is inherent that neither the widths nor size or spacing of the sprocket holes need to be consistent between the films which are scanned by the digital film processing system, see col.14, paragraph 01031-0132)*".

With respect to claim 3, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the material comprises a coating, see (col.15, lines paragraph 0141, lines 1-5).

With respect to claim 4, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the bridge members (bridge 325 of fig 9) comprise parallel-elongated rigid strips, (film 220 is transported as a continuous strips through the film transport assemblies 333 of fig 3, by film transportation actuations, such as bridge 325 and 323 of fig 11) wherein each strip is curved in the film travel direction, (a film 220 takes on a generally actuate (curved) shape, see col.6, paragraph 0079-0080, and col.8, paragraph 0097, lines11-15), and wherein the opening comprises an elongated slot defined between the strips, (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied, to film 220 of fig 11, see col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-7) .

With respect to claim 5, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the bridge members comprise rollers (rollers 367, 368of fig 10, see col.8, paragraph 0097, lines 6-8).

With respect to claim 6, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the material comprises a friction reducing material, (a friction reducing materials such as polyester, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride can be used on the on the film bridge, see col.14, paragraph 0130).

With respect to claim 7, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the material comprises a coating including at least one of polytetrafluoroethylene, a diamond material, nickel, and anodize (materials such as, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride can be used on the on the film bridge, see col.14, paragraph 0130).

With respect to claim 8, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprising: a first film roller (rollers 367 of fig 10) positioned substantially orthogonally to a film (film 220 of fig11, direction 38 and 383 as shown in fig 11) travel direction and having a film facing surface (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied) to support photographic film moving relative to the film bridge (film bridge 325 of fig 10 or 9); a second film roller (rollers 368 of fig 10) positioned substantially orthogonal to the film travel direction and having a film facing surface to support photographic film moving relative to the film bridge, (325 of fig 9 and

10) wherein the first and second film rollers are spaced in the film travel direction so as to define an opening (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied) between the rollers (roller 367 and 368 of fig 10) for applying radiation to film traveling over the film facing surfaces of the rollers, see col.9, paragraph 0099, the last 10 lines; and a mounting assembly (lower mounting assembly 367, supports film rollers 367 and 368, as shown in fig 9 and 10).

With respect to claim 9, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprising: a first shaft (shaft 362 of fig 9 and 10) provided through the center of the first roller and mounted to the mounting assembly (transport housing assembly 340 of fig 9 and 10) such that the first roller (367 of fig 9and 10) is relatable about the first shaft (shaft 362 of fig 9 and 10); and a second shaft (shaft 364 of fig 9 and 10) provided through the center of the second roller (368 of fig 10) and mounted to the mounting assembly (340 of fig 10) such that the second roller (roller 368 of fig 10) is rotatable about the second shaft (364 of fig 10).

With respect to claim 10, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein each roller has a length which is less than or equal to the width of the film between the film sprocket holes, such that sprocket holes of film traveling over the rollers during operation do not contact the rollers, "*(film*

transporting and developing system can be used to scan a variety of film types, and a separate hardware systems and components, such as rollers need not be manufactured for separate film types, so it is inherent that neither the widths nor size or spacing of the sprocket holes with respect to the rollers need to be grater or equal to width of the film which are scanned by the digital film processing system, see col.14, paragraph 01031-0132)".

With respect to claim 11, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the spacing between the rollers is not an integer multiple of the longitudinal distance between film sprocket holes (sprocket hole 527 o fig 18).

With respect to claim 12, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the spacing between the rollers is a half multiple of the longitudinal distance between film sprocket holes (sprocket hole 527 o fig 18).

With respect to claim 13, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the spacing s between the rollers is related to

the longitudinal distance d between film sprocket holes (sprocket hole 527 of fig 18), by the equation: s=(i.5)(d) wherein i is a positive integer.

With respect to claim 14, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), comprising: a source configured to apply radiation to developing film (light source 216 and 218 of fig 12); a sensor configured to sense radiation from developing film (film sensors 116F and 116B o fig 12); and a film bridge configured to support developing film (220 of fig 12) without contacting the sprocket holes (527 of fig 18) of the developing film, (220 of fig 12) as the source applies radiation to developing film (fig 1-29).

With respect to claim 15, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 1 through 5) wherein the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), comprises a pair of spaced rollers (roller 367 and 368 fig 9 and 10) defining an opening (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied) through which the radiation is applied to developing film, see (col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-8).

With respect to claim 16, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein each roller has a length which is less than or

equal to the width of the film between the film sprocket holes, "*(film transporting and developing system can be used to scan a variety of film types, and a separate hardware systems and components, such as rollers need not be manufactured for separate film types, so it is inherent that neither the widths nor size or spacing of the sprocket holes with respect to the rollers need to beless than or equal to the width of the film which are scanned by the digital film processing system, see col.14, paragraph 01031-0132)*".

With respect to claim 17, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 1 through 5), wherein the film bridge (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprises a pair of parallel rigid strips defining a slot (opening 370 of fig 9 and 9) through which the radiation is applied to developing film 9 film 22 of fig 12).

With respect to claim 18, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 1 through 5), wherein the film bridge (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprises friction reducing material applied to at least one of said strips, see (col.14, paragraph 0130, lines 1-7).

With respect to claim 19, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 1 through 5), wherein the bridge (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprises a pair of spaced side

rollers (rollers 367 of fig 10) configured to contact developing film (film 220 110) near the film side edges.

With respect to claim 20, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 1 through 5), wherein each side roller includes a guide wall (film transport or guide assembly 333 of fig 3) to restrain lateral movement of the developing film (film 220 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 21, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 9 and 11) wherein the spacing between the side rollers (rollers 367 of fig 9 or 10) is greater than the width of film between sprocket holes (527 of fig 18, col.14, paragraph 0131).

With respect to claim 22, Thering et al. discloses a digital processing system (fig 9–12) wherein the digital film processing system (film developing system 333 of fig 9) is adapted to combine digital images created at multiple film development times to create a single enhanced image, see (col.11, paragraph 0113, lines 1-15).

With respect to claim 23, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a digital film scanning system, (as shown by fig 9-12) comprising: a first side roller (four roller 367 of fig 9 and 10) configured to support a first side edge of photographic film during film scanning, see (col.9, paragraph 0099 of the last 10 lines); and a second side roller (rollers 367 are in the both side of the device as shown in fig 9 and 10) transversely

spaced from said first side roller and configured to support a second side edge of photographic film during film scanning, see (col.9, paragraph 0099 of the last 10 lines);.

With respect to claim 24, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein each side roller (rollers 367 fig 10) includes a ledge configured to support an edge of the developing film (film 220 of fig 12, see (col.9, paragraph 0099 of the last 10 lines).

With respect to claim 25, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (as discussed in fig 9-12) wherein each ledge is configured to support an edge portion of film outward of the film sprocket holes, (since, the basic function of rollers is to convey the film over the film bridge for scanning, so that the rollers inheritably provides ledge for keeping the film flat against the surface or to support the edge portion of the film outward).

With respect to claim 26, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (as discussed in fig 9-12), wherein each side roller (rollers 367 of fig 12) includes a guide wall (lower and upper film guide transport housing 327 and 340 of fig 9 and 10) to restrain lateral movement of the film, see col.8, paragraph 0095-0096.

With respect to claim 27, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge (as shown by fig 9 and 11) wherein the spacing between the side rollers (rollers 367 of fig 9 or 10) is

greater than the width of film between sprocket holes (527 of fig 18, col.14, paragraph 0131).

With respect to claim 28, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge (as shown by fig 9 and 11), further comprising: a radiation source (light source 216 and 218 of fig 11) positioned between the side rollers (roller 367 of fig 10); and a radiation sensor (116F and 116B of fig 12) positioned between the side rollers (367 of fig 10 and 9).

With respect to claim 29, Thering et al. discloses a film bridge for a film scanning system, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9) comprising: a first bridge member (a lower film guide 327 of fig 9 and 10, includes an actuate film scanning bridge 325, which is the first bridge member, with a center scanning 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied to the moving film along the transporting bridge 325) having a film facing surface (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied) to support photographic film (film 220 of fig 11) moving relative to the bridge, see (col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-3, and same paragraph lines 1-10); a second bridge member (bridge member 323 of fig 12) having a film facing surface to support photographic film (22o of fig 11) moving relative to the bridge, (bridge member 323 of fig 12, shows the second bridge arcuate member 323, over which the film 220 is driven, see (col.8, paragraph 0097, of the last 3 lines) wherein the bridge members are spaced so as to define an opening between the bridge members for passing radiation through film traveling over the film facing surfaces (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied, to film 220 of fig 11, see

col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-7); wherein the bridge members (bridge 367 of fig 10) are connected near their ends such that the opening has a defined length (opening 370 of fig 10); and wherein the length of the opening is less than the width between the sprocket holes of the film to be scanned, (the length of the opening 370 where the film positioned to be scanned is inherently shorter than the width between the sprocket holes, where radiation is directly applied to the moving film along the transporting bridge).

With respect to claim 30, Thering et al. discloses the film bridge, (a film guidance/transport assemblies system 333 of fig 9 and 10, includes film transporting bridge 325 of fig 9), wherein the bridge members (bridge 325 of fig 9) bridge members are elongated strips, (film 220 is transported as a continuous strips through the film transport assemblies 333 of fig 3, by film transportation actuations, such as bridge 325 and 323 of fig 11) wherein each strip is curved in the film travel direction, (a film 220 takes on a generally actuate (curved) shape, see col.6, paragraph 0079-0080, and col.8, paragraph 0097, lines11-15), and wherein the opening comprises an elongated slot defined between the strips, (opening portion 370 of fig 9, where radiation is directly applied, to film 220 of fig 11, see col.8, paragraph 0096, lines 1-7) .

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 305-5441. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Negussie Worku
03/11/05

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